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Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references:

- 1. United States Patent No. 5,976,814, issued November 2, 1999;
- 2. United States Patent No. 5,958,709, issued September 28, 1999; and
- 3. United States Patent No. 5,516,653, issued May 14, 1996.

These references are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Exhibit 1) and copies of these references are attached hereto as Exhibits 2-4, respectively.

The fee for filing a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement after the issuance of an Office Action on the merits is ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS. A check for \$180.00 is enclosed.

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In summary, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the various grounds for objection and rejection contained in the November 21, 2003 Office Action and earnestly solicit allowance of the claims now pending, namely, claims 147, 148 and 153.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone the number provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed fee of \$600.00 (\$420.00 for a two-month extension of time, \$180.00 for an Information Disclosure Statement), is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

John P. White

. No. 28,678

Respectfully submitted,

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